

S-1 Article – Promotions

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Hello once again from the Fires Brigade S1 office. We continue working hard to ensure our Fires Brigade Soldiers are taken care of administratively. We continue to send them on their much deserved break from deployment under the Environmental Morale Leave Program on a daily basis. We are also in the middle of an Army-wide Personnel Asset Inventory directed by the Department of the Army. .

One of the routine events we prepare for and hold each month is the enlisted promotion board. So far, the Fires Brigade has held two boards for Soldiers seeking promotion to Sergeant (E-5) or Staff Sergeant (E-6). Promotion boards conducted during deployments are primarily the same as those back at Fort Hood, with some differences.

For instance, Soldiers appearing before the promotion board, presided by Command Sgt. Major Gil Canuela, are in full combat uniform (ACUs, IBAS, and weapon), as opposed to Class A uniforms, usually worn on Fort Hood.

Additionally, topics covered are a little more combat focused. They include Rules of Engagement, Explosive Hazards, Multi-National Division (Baghdad) General Order I, along with others.

Regardless of uniform or subject matter questions, promotion boards are an intense experience for our young leaders who must demonstrate professionalism, competence, and leadership to pass the test.

The promotion boards are conducted on the seventh day of each month and consist of three members, usually in the rank of first sergeant, one board recorder, and the president, the command sergeant major.

The following Soldiers appeared before the February and March Promotion Boards, and we are happy to report that they were recommended for promotion to Sergeant (E-5):

Spc. Donald Barrow (Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, Fires Brigade)

Cpl. Doug Myers (324th Network Support Company)

Cpl. Christopher Fernandez (HHB, Fires Brigade)

Spc. Daniel Zupan (Battery A, 26th Field Artillery, TAB)

On Mar. 21, the 2006 Sergeant First Class selection list was released Army-wide. The list includes the personnel who were selected by the Army for promotion from Staff Sergeant (E-6) to Sergeant First Class (E-7). These great Noncommissioned Officers have worked hard throughout their Army career, and this is the Army's way of recognizing them for their hard work and commitment to Soldiers. There were 16 Staff Sergeants currently assigned to the Fires Brigade that were selected this year, and we would like to take this opportunity to recognize and congratulate them. The selectees are as follows:

Staff Sergeant Luciano Olivas (HHS, 1-21 FA)

Staff Sergeant Terry Woodard (HHS, 1-21 FA)

Staff Sergeant Michael Miles (HHB, Fires Brigade)

Staff Sergeant Valesita Elmore (324th NSC)

Staff Sergeant Lawanda Perry (HHB, Fires Brigade)

Staff Sergeant Jay Butler, Jr. (HHS, 2-20 FA)

Staff Sergeant James Mayes (Co. A, 589 BSB)

Staff Sergeant Cory Calhoun (HHC, 589 BSB)

Staff Sergeant Tammy Prezzy (Rear Det, 589 BSB)

Staff Sergeant David Taylor (HHS, 1-21 FA)

Staff Sergeant Melinda Blue (HHC, 589 BSB)

Staff Sergeant Randolph Apodaca (HHS, 2-20 FA)

Staff Sergeant Cory Bass (HHS, 2-20 FA)

Staff Sergeant Robert Martinez (HHB, Fires Brigade)

Staff Sergeant Michael Renner (67 FSC)

Staff Sergeant Richard Bright (HHC, 589 BSB)